

1. ~~Mr Muston~~  
2. ~~Mr Morley Parry~~  
3. ~~Mr Perry~~

B.415  
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# LICHFIELD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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## ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1969



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Vice-Chairman : W. E. Thompson

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## PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

### Medical Officer of Health

C. E. JAMISON B.A., M.B., D.P.H.

### Chief Public Health Inspector

GEORGE LEEDER, Cert. P.H.I.

### Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector

C. MATHESON, Cert. P.H.I.

### Public Health Inspectors

T. W. HOWELLS, M.A.P.H.I. Dip. P.H.I.

D. G. HOBDAV, M.A.P.H.I. (Resigned 2/2/69)

T. J. STANLEY (Appointed Technical Assistant  
30/7/69. Qualified to Dip. P.H.I. M.A.P.H.I.,  
15/12/69).

### Meat Inspector

J. SUTTON A.M.R.S.H. (appointed 17/3/69).



Incineration Plant Supervisor

W. SAUNDERS

Pupil Public Health Inspector

P. RAYBOULD

Office Staff

Mrs. H. Pantlin (Resigned 30/4/69)

Mrs. P.A. Gicquel (Appointed 21/4/69)

Miss V. Constant (Resigned 4/9/69)

Mrs. E.J. Wragg (Appointed 22/9/69)

Sanitary Foreman/Rodent Officer

T. FEARN



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LICHFIELD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1969

To the Chairman and Members,  
Lichfield Rural District Council.

It is again my statutory duty to present my annual report on certain aspects of community health in the district and on the work of the Health Department of the Council.

As on previous occasions, I make no attempt to summarise the report in the introduction, apart from the general comment that the year was a reasonably satisfactory one, without major epidemics and with quite good progress in various fields of public health work.

I again take this opportunity of thanking both members and other officers of the Council for their continued help and support, with a special word of thanks to those persons, mentioned in the text, who have contributed to this report.

C. E. JAMISON

Medical Officer of Health.

Rural Council House,  
Sept. 1st, 1970.

## GENERAL STATISTICS

The figures set out below show the area in acres, the population, as estimated by the Registrar General, the number of occupied houses, the total rateable value of rateable properties of all types and the product of a penny rate:-

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	83,527
Population	...	...	...	55,100
Numbers of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	17,569
Total Rateable Value of Properties	...	...	...	£2,106,194
Product of a Penny Rate	...	...	...	8,392

As might have been expected, in view of the extensive development of new housing estates during the year, both population and the number of occupied houses increased substantially, while rateable value increased in a roughly corresponding degree.

## VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	688	649	1,337
Illegitimate	24	16	40
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	712	665	1,377
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 Population = 25.0

<u>Stillbirths</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	8	12	20
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	8	12	20
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births = 14



<u>Deaths in Infants under One Week</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	6	8	14
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Totals	6	8	14

Early Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births - 10

<u>Deaths in Infants Under Four Weeks</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	6	9	15
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Totals	6	9	15

Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births - 11

<u>Deaths in Infants Under One Year</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	11	12	23
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Totals	11	12	23

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births - 17

<u>Deaths (All Ages)</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
	281	292	573

Death Rate per 1,000 Population - 10.4

It may be noted that 40 live births and stillbirths out of a total of 1,397 live and stillbirths were illegitimate, giving a proportion of one in 35. This figure compares with one in 29 in 1968, one in 32 in 1967, one in 34 in 1966, one in 27 in 1965, one in 28 in 1964, one in 25 in 1963, one in 17 in 1962, one in 33 in 1961, one in 26 in 1960 and one in 30 in 1959. The Registrar General indicates that the national figures show that 8% of all live births were illegitimate, as compared with 3% in this district. This may be consolation to those who feel, no doubt rightly, that the local figures are much higher than they ought to be.

No stillbirths or infant deaths occurred in illegitimate pregnancies or children, thus making it impossible to make really significant comparisons with the incidence of these sad events in illegitimate pregnancies and children.

The following table shows how the figures of the main vital statistics compare with those for the preceding fifteen years:--

Year	Estimated Population	Live Birth Rate	Still Birth Rate	Neonatal Death Rate	Infant Death Rate	Death Rate (All Ages)
1955	42,580	12.7	27.1	9.3	18.6	10.9
1956	41,250	14.3	23.2	22.0	27.1	10.9
1957	40,100	15.7	14.0	26.8	31.5	10.5
1958	38,850	15.4	22.8	13.4	23.4	10.3
1959	39,500	15.7	26.7	12.9	16.1	11.4
1960	40,660	16.2	23.7	10.6	19.7	11.3
1961	40,040	17.2	18.2	18.8	26.0	12.3
1962	40,710	17.9	14.9	24.7	31.6	11.5
1963	41,950	18.6	12.7	10.3	12.8	10.8
1964	42,880	20.6	18.9	11.3	13.6	10.3
1965	44,730	24.4	18.9	9.2	11.0	11.6
1966	46,900	25.5	12.4	11.7	13.4	12.0
1967	49,070	26.5	12.1	18.4	23.8	10.8
1968	53,180	25.0	19.0	12.0	20.0	10.6
1969	55,100	25.0	14.0	11.0	17.0	10.4

It can easily be seen that the figures for 1969 compare favourably with those for immediately preceding years. This applies particularly to the stillbirth rate, which is down on most recent years, although above the very favourable figures for 1966 and 1967, to the neonatal death rate, which is lower than in any recent year except 1965 and to the death rate (all ages), which was lower than in any other year in the past decade except 1964. In the case of the infant death rate, the figure was lower than in either of the two immediately preceding years, although higher than in a number of other recent years.

After the necessary adjustment of local figures where appropriate, a process carried out by the Registrar General, in order to make them comparable with those for England and Wales as a whole, the following table shows how the local figures compare with the national ones:--



Place	Live Birth Rate	Still Birth Rate	Early Neonatal Death Rate	Neonatal Death Rate	Perinatal Death Rate	Infant Death Rate	Death Rate All Ages
Lichfield Rural District	24.0	14.0	10.0	11.0	24.0	17.0	10.7
England and Wales	16.3	13.0	10.0	12.0	23.0	18.0	11.9

It will be seen that the birth rate, even after adjustment, was much above the national figure, continuing the high figures of the last five or six years, in which young married couples have come, in large numbers, to new housing estates, while the local overall death rate, also after adjustment, was very significantly below the national one. This might obviously be due to a combination of many factors apart from the one mentioned above, such as a healthy environment, reasonably good housing, efficient local medical services etc. The figures relating to deaths during infancy are broadly comparable to those in the country as a whole. The perinatal death rate, relating to stillbirths and deaths under one week taken in combination, is a very important statistic, which is, on this occasion, slightly less favourable locally than nationally, entirely due to the slightly higher local proportion of stillbirths, mentioned in a previous paragraph.

The following table shows the causes of death, during the year, of persons ordinarily resident in the district, regardless of where the death actually occurred, figures for other recent years being included for purpose of comparison:-

Cause of Death	Total 1964	Total 1965	Total 1966	Total 1967	Total 1968	1969		
						Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	3	1	1	-	2	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, Other	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	1
Syphilitic Disease	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	1
Meningococcal Infection	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Measles	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Cause of Death	Total 1964	Total 1965	Total 1966	Total 1967	Total 1968	1969		
						Male	Female	Total
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	2	-	1	-	6	1	1	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	14	6	13	4	8	7	3	10
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	18	15	15	15	19	20	2	22
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	8	10	13	8	6	1	11	12
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	2	3	3	2	5	-	2	2
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	22	37	45	34	40	21	22	43
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	2	1	5	3	3	4	1	5
Diabetes	1	4	7	3	5	1	2	3
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	74	78	70	58	85	26	36	62
Coronary Disease, Angina	89	114	95	166	127	75	43	118
Hypertension with Heart Disease	5	8	14	6	7	3	4	7
Other Heart Disease	47	44	48	24	24	12	30	42
Other Circulatory Disease	10	12	23	24	24	5	18	23
Influenza	3	1	6	-	4	2	4	6
Pneumonia	35	67	79	63	55	26	49	75
Bronchitis	18	32	24	21	27	22	8	30



Cause of Death	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	1969		
	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	Male	Female	Total
Other Diseases of the Respiratory System	7	10	10	6	6	5	4	9
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	6	5	4	3	4	2	-	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	-	3	2	1	-	1	1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	2	1	-	5	-	1	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	4	-	1	4	2	3	-	3
Congenital Malformations	4	5	5	11	13	1	6	7
Other Defined and ill-Defined Diseases	36	27	51	54	11	20	35	55
Motor Vehicle Accidents	14	18	13	10	20	14	4	18
All Other Accidents	6	11	11	6	3	5	4	9
Suicide	6	4	1	2	6	2	1	3
Homicide and Operations of War	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	441	517	564	529	520	281	292	573

Taking the deaths as a whole, 14 occurred before the end of the first week of life, one further death at an age between one week and four weeks, eight between four weeks and one year, six between one year and four years, five between five years and 15 years, five between 15 years and 25 years, eight between 25 years and 35 years, thirteen between 35 years and 45 years, 33 between 45 and 55 years, 85 between 55 years and 65 years, 152 between 65 years and 75 years, and 243 at ages over 75 years. It will be seen that 395 out of the total of 573 deaths occurred at ages over 65 years. Male deaths greatly exceeded female deaths at ages up to 65 years, slightly exceeded female deaths at ages between 65 and 75 years, while female deaths exceeded male deaths at ages over 75 years in the ratio of 159 female to 84 male. The greater longevity of the female could not be better illustrated.

Of the fifteen deaths occurring before the end of the fourth week of life, four were attributed to congenital abnormalities, seven to birth injury and difficult labours, while the remainder were mainly attributable to prematurity. In the case of the eight deaths occurring at between four weeks and one year, one resulted from a disease of the nervous system, one from intestinal obstruction, two from congenital abnormalities and no fewer than four from accidents in the home. These figures show only too clearly the great importance which must be attached to accidents in the home in this age group, although the figures for the year under review, are probably exceptional ones, unlikely to recur, on the same scale, in future years.

Causes of death in children dying at between one year and five years were of quite a different mixture, one resulting from meningitis, two from pneumonia, one from another disease of the respiratory system, and one from a motor vehicle accident.

Of deaths occurring at between five and fifteen years, one was attributed to cancer, one to a glandular disorder, two to motor vehicle accidents, and one to an accident not involving a motor vehicle. Here again, the toll of accidental death is indeed high.

Taking the cancers as a whole, it will be seen that cancer of the lung and bronchus again outstrips all the others, with a total of 22 deaths, cancer of the breast next, with 12 deaths, then cancer of the stomach, with 10 deaths, while at the lower end of the scale, cancer of the uterus or womb, and cancer of the prostate, each accounted for only two deaths.

The figures for cancer of the lung and bronchus again break the previous record, although the increase on this occasion was much smaller than in the previous year. It will be seen that the figures show the usual predominance of males. In view of the continued unwillingness of the Government to take any effective steps to curb this easily preventable disease, by action to restrict the smoking habit, it seems pointless to enlarge on this subject, beyond repeating that the death roll is large, is growing, and involves a fairish number of persons in far from elderly age-groups, three of the deaths occurring at under 45 years, three between 45 and 55 years, and nine between 55 and 65 years, accounting in all, for 15 out of the 22 deaths.

It is reassuring to note that all the diabetic deaths occurred in older age-groups.

Of the respiratory diseases, influenza, pneumonia, bronchitis and emphysema, all carried off more victims than in the previous year, but the vast majority died at ages over 65 years, although, in the case of bronchitis and emphysema, one patient was under 35 years, 9 more between 55 and 65 years. Bronchitis is, of course, a predominantly male disease, closely linked with the smoking habit, which the other two are not.



Deaths due to motor vehicle accidents were, in total, slightly less numerous than in 1968, which was a particularly bad year in relation to this matter, but higher than the average of the preceding five years. The deaths were, in this year, reasonably well spread through the various age-groups, without any predominance in younger age-groups, such as has been very evident in some other recent years. The markedly higher incidence in males is very notable on this occasion, affecting not only young men but also the age group from 45 years to 55 years, in which five men, but no woman, died.

Of the nine deaths attributed to accidents not involving motor vehicles, four occurred at ages under one year, mainly due to inhalation of stomach contents. Three of the remaining deaths occurred in persons over 65 years, two being 75 years of age, due to causes commonly occurring in these age-groups.

Once more it can be recorded with pleasure that no death resulted from diseases related to pregnancy, childbirth or abortion.

#### NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows the number of cases of infectious diseases, notified during the year and also the number of cases of each disease notified during the preceding ten years:-

Disease	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
Measles	196	61	768	56	674	199	342	311	371	378	129
Whooping Cough	27	50	13	11	6	27	6	22	14	15	2
Scarlet Fever	43	39	15	4	6	8	21	25	15	23	6
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Meningitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3
Dysentery	23	-	9	21	5	3	6	16	16	27	-
Food Poisoning	3	61	6	18	4	-	2	1	2	4	1
Influenzal Pneumonia	69	34	59	26	23	9	29	32	10	61	-
Infective Hepatitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	17
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	1	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis	16	11	7	8	9	6	4	5	2	7	3

The number of cases of measles was smaller than in other recent years, but larger than might reasonably have been expected in an inter-epidemic year of this disease which tended, over a long period, to occur in epidemic incidence in alternate years. It would appear that this characteristic is less in evidence now than it used to be. I do not feel that the lower figures in 1969 can reasonably be attributed to the relatively small number of susceptible children who had been vaccinated at that time.

The number of cases of whooping cough was the lowest recorded in any recent year, and shows the results achieved by vaccination, over a number of years, on a reasonably satisfactory scale.

As regards scarlet fever, the satisfactory record of other recent years was fully maintained in 1969, showing that, under present conditions, this disease can be adequately controlled by prompt treatment of the relatively small number of cases occurring, which quickly overcomes the infection, and so minimises the risk of spread to contacts.

As will be seen from the table, the three cases of meningitis notified were, with the exception of 1965, the first cases to be notified in any recent year. It may well be, however, that the apparent increase was mainly due to a change in the type of infection deemed to be notifiable under amended regulations. One infection, occurring in a child, was fatal. The remaining cases occurred in adults. No spread of infection occurred.

No case of dysentery was notified during the year, in pleasant contrast with other recent years, in which this disease proved rather troublesome in school-children.

The one case of food-poisoning notified occurred in an elderly woman, but bacteriological investigation proved to be entirely negative. No spread of infection occurred.

As infective hepatitis only became a notifiable disease during 1968, it is not possible to compare its incidence with those of previous years. It did, however, constitute a significant problem in several schools. Measures such as early exclusion of affected children and disinfection of lavatories appeared to play a useful part in checking the spread of infection. Precautions were also taken in relation to possible spread of infection by professional food-handlers. So far as could be ascertained, no such spread did occur.

Notifications of tuberculous infection were made in respect of three patients during the year. Two of these patients were, however, in one family, the infections involving a young woman and very young baby, illustrating the vulnerability of very young children to this type of infection. The third notification related to a middle-aged man. As these infections occurred in a parish adjoining Tamworth, advantage was taken to publicise mass miniature X-ray facilities, later provided in that borough, but no additional notifications resulted from attendances at the very well patronised sessions held there. The one death linked with tuberculosis infection occurred as a result of late effects of a very long-standing infection in a middle-aged man.

Arrangements for surveillance of patients and investigation of family and other contacts continued to operate satisfactorily, the tuberculosis health visitor liaising between patients and contacts on the one side and chest physicians on the other, as required by the circumstances of each case.



The following table shows how the numbers of new cases of tuberculosis and deaths from the disease in 1969 compare with those for other recent years:-

YEAR	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1954	17	20	5	2	8	3	-	-
1955	10	8	2	3	-	-	-	-
1956	9	9	2	1	-	-	-	-
1957	14	10	1	1	1	-	-	1
1958	11	3	2	2	2	-	-	-
1959	8	8	-	-	4	1	-	-
1960	5	5	-	1	3	1	-	-
1961	5	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
1962	5	2	-	1	-	1	-	-
1963	5	3	-	1	1	1	1	-
1964	4	2	-	-	2	1	-	-
1965	2	1	-	1	1	-	-	-
1966	3	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
1967	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
1968	4	2	-	1	1	1	2	-
1969	2	1	-	-	1	-	-	-

It will be seen that the figures were much better than those for the previous year and, with the exception of 1967, the best yet recorded. It would seem reasonable to hope that, with satisfactory methods of treatment now available, which quickly render patients non-infectious, this relatively satisfactory position may be maintained.

#### ANTHRAX

Only one notification of suspected infection in an animal was received during the year, and this was not confirmed.

No notification was received in respect of any infection, or suspected infection, in a human being.

## VENEREAL DISEASES

No local figures are available, as treatment and investigation were, as in previous years, carried out at hospitals in large neighbouring towns. Arrangements appear, however, to work satisfactorily.

## LABORATORY FACILITIES

Facilities continued unchanged, and very satisfactory, at the County Chemical and Public Health Laboratories in Stafford, although payment has now to be made for specimens forwarded to the former. Information available and facilities for receiving specimens at weekends from the latter were again a very useful feature of the services provided, and were taken advantage of on quite a number of occasions.

## HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION

Although geographically a little remote, facilities for patients suffering from infectious diseases, at East Birmingham and Moxley Hospitals, appeared, as in previous years, to be quite adequate for these patients, who can be transferred reasonable distances without undue difficulty.

Facilities for maternity patients at Victoria Hospital, Lichfield, and Good Hope Hospital, Sutton Coldfield, were again adequate for all patients requiring admission on specific medical or social grounds, although insufficient to meet the demands of all patients with a personal preference for hospital delivery.

The waiting list of patients needing admission to hospital accommodation for the elderly chronic sick shortened during the year, following some reorganisation of arrangements by the hospital authority. There now appear to be grounds for hope that the problems caused by inability to admit patients urgently requiring admission may be considerably reduced as compared with recent years.

## PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES

Use was again made, to an extensive degree, of the link, at officer levels, between the personal health services of the County Council and the environmental health and other services, of the District Council.

## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951

I am again pleased to record that it was possible to take all necessary action informally, without recourse to the legal provisions, in the above Acts, for compulsory removal to either hospital or home for the elderly infirm.



## WELFARE OF OLD PEOPLE

As in other recent years, the Council made financial grants during 1969 to voluntary organisations undertaking to provide recreational and other appropriate facilities to persons in this age group. It is quite obvious that, by relatively modest expenditure, the Council is stimulating valuable social work in this important field of activity.

Towards the end of the year, the Council agreed to give financial support, in conjunction with the County Council, to a scheme for the provision of meals on wheels to a number of elderly people in Burntwood Parish and adjoining part of Hammerwich Parish. With local support from the numerous volunteers required to operate the service, and co-operation of the W.R.V.S. and Hospital Management Committee, it is already evident that the scheme is functioning well, and is likely to encourage people in some other parishes to similar efforts.

### FOOD

Details of inspection of food premises and of meat in slaughter-houses will be found in the Chief Public Health Inspector's section of this report. I would only add that this work, together with the investigation of complaints from members of the public in relation to food sold to them, is becoming more valuable, but also more time-consuming, year by year, as higher standards become feasible and appropriate.

The results of examination of samples of milk for cleanliness, efficiency of pasteurisation and sterilisation, were as follows:-

GRADE OF MILK	RESULTS					
	Methyline Blue (Cleanliness)		(Pasteurisation)		(Sterilisation)	
	Sat	Unsat	Sat.	Unsat.	Sat.	Unsat.
Untreated	76	1	-	-	-	-
Pasteurised	194	5	204	-	-	-
Pasteurised/ Homogenised	20	2	22	-	-	-
Sterilised	-	-	-	-	3	-
TOTALS	290	8	226	-	3	-

It will be seen that a significant proportion of the methylene blue tests form an unsatisfactory result, the proportion being slightly larger than in the previous year. Action in relation to this matter lies, of course, with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. The results of the phosphotase and turbidity tests showed, as on previous occasions, the efficiency of these processes, used to kill pathogenic organisms.

In addition to the tests recorded in the above table, a large number of samples of raw milk were tested, all with negative results, for tuberculous infection, again demonstrating the success which has resulted from action by the Government in earlier years, to eliminate this infection from bovine stock.

The results of tests relating to brucella abortus infection of milk produced in the district were also generally satisfactory, and it is clear that, although this infection still exists in dairy herds, it does not constitute any substantial danger to the community in these days when almost all milk sold is either pasteurised or sterilised, either of which processes render the milk safe for human consumption. It is also clear, however, that risk does attend the practice of farmers of retaining a quantity of raw milk on the farm for use by the farmer and farm workers and their respective families. Although the disease in human beings is not statutorily notifiable, it is known that a certain number of infections, of quite serious nature, have occurred as a result of this dangerous practice.

Of 50 samples of milk, sampled by the County Council, as Food and Drugs Authority in this district, it is satisfactory to be able to record that none showed any evidence of adulteration.

The same was true, with one exception, of 91 samples of a large variety of foods, alcoholic liquors and drugs. The one unsatisfactory sample was one of pork sausage, found to be 4.39% deficient in meat. It is reassuring to know that regular sampling is being undertaken and that, with very rare exceptions, samples are found to be genuine both in relation to legal standards, where imposed, and to the trade description, as set out on the label.

#### WATER

I am again indebted to Mr. Markham, Distribution Engineer to South Staffordshire Waterworks Company for details of water used, treatment, distribution arrangements and sampling. These do not differ materially from those recorded in other years, the supply being from eleven pumping stations, producing water of satisfactory standard, although chlorination is practised at most of these, largely as a precautionary measure.



Figures for fluoride content were not given, but can be assumed to be similar to those recorded in other recent years, when they showed marked deficiencies as compared with those required for the formation of healthy teeth. It is now fairly evident that legislative action is going to be necessary to remedy this situation, on a national basis, but there is, as yet, no evidence as to when this will be brought forward.

### HOUSING

The Housing Manager has provided me with the following figures of housing lettings during 1969 and of families on the waiting list for housing accommodation, figures which are of considerable importance in relation to clearance of unfit houses:-

Applicants at 1st January 1969 (445 tenants, 167 lodgers, 13 caravans)	...	...	...	625
Applicants rehoused in new dwellings during 1969	...	...	...	54
Applicants rehoused in relet dwellings during 1969	...	...	...	131
Applicants at 31st December, 1969 (510 tenants, 193 lodgers, 24 caravans)	...	...	...	727

Of the 185 families rehoused during 1969, 29 were rehoused from houses classified as unfit for human habitation and eight from caravans deemed to be inadequate for the needs of the families occupying them.

The figure of 29 families rehoused from unfit houses compares with figures of 73 in 1968, 35 in 1967, 17 in 1966, 56 in 1965, 25 in 1964, 14 in 1963 and 61 in 1962. It will be seen that the figure is much smaller than in 1968, when more families were rehoused on a large new housing estate, built for the purpose, at Fazeley, but compares reasonably well with other recent years.

The following table shows the statutory action taken during 1969 in relation to houses deemed to be unfit for human habitation:-

PROPERTY	STATUTORY ACTION
Sittles Farm Cottage, Fradley	Undertaking Accepted, 24th January, 1969
69-107, (even Nos.), Cannock Road, Chase Terrace	Undertaking Accepted, 24th January, 1969
26-30, (even Nos.), Lichfield Street, Fazeley	Undertaking Accepted, 25th April, 1969
138, Lichfield Road, Burntwood	Undertaking Accepted, 25th April, 1969

PROPERTY	STATUTORY ACTION
60-76, (even Nos.), Lichfield Street, Fazeley	Clearance Order, 23rd May, 1969
5 and 7, The Beck, Elford	Undertaking Accepted, 23rd May, 1969
The Cottage, Comberford	Undertaking Accepted 23rd May, 1969
Manor Cottage, Haunton	Undertaking Accepted, 23rd May, 1969
18, Ashcroft Lane, Shenstone	Undertaking Accepted, 23rd May, 1969
105-117, (odd Nos.), Lichfield Street, Fazeley	Clearance Order, 25th July, 1969
137-145, (odd Nos.), Chase Road, Burntwood	Clearance Order, 25th July, 1969
163-175, (odd Nos.), Chase Road, Burntwood	Clearance Order, 25th July, 1969
4, 6 and 8, Atherstone Street, and 3, 5 and 7, Coleshill Street, Fazeley	Clearance Order, 26th September, 1969
78 and 80, Old Road, Armitage	Undertaking Acceptedm 24th October, 19
130-136, (even Nos), Rugeley Road, Chase Terrace	Undertaking Accepted, 24th October, 19
44-48 and 60-72, (even Nos.), Brook End, Fazeley	Clearance Order, 21st November, 1969

The figure of 37 houses, in respect of which administrative action was taken in 1969, compared with figures of 28 houses in 1968, 20 in 1967, 22 in 1966, 28 in 1965, 28 in 1964, 55 in 1963, 37 in 1962, 25 in 1961, 70 in 1960, 18 in 1959, 8 in 1958, 37 in 1957, 22 in 1956 and 19 in 1955. It will be seen that, during 1969, statutory action was mainly taken in relation to houses in Burntwood and Fazeley Parishes, due to the fact that, during 1969, houses under construction in these parishes, constructed mainly to rehouse occupants of unfit houses, were approaching completion.

The same circumstance will apply, at least in Burntwood Parish, during the present year. Taking this factor together with plans already formulated for building of further houses for this purpose in Fazeley and Whittington Parishes, there would now appear to be every hope that the Council's clearance programme can be brought to a successful conclusion during the next few years.

As in other years, advice was given, during the year, on the medical background of various applicants for rehousing, and the co-operation of the Housing Manager, in those cases where priority was justified on medical grounds, was much appreciated.



## SEWERS AND SEWAGE TREATMENT

(Prepared by Mr. K. Burkinshaw, C. Eng., A.M.I.Mun.E., A.M. Inst.H.E.,  
Engineer and Surveyor)

At the majority of the sewage treatment works throughout the Rural District the final effluent has been of a reasonable standard, and, on the whole, complies with the standard laid down by the Royal Commission. The Council's programme for modernising the existing works is now nearing completion, and the capital expenditure to date is in excess of one million pounds. However, several more contracts are still to be let to provide sewerage and sewage disposal facilities in some remaining villages, such as Alrewas and Fradley.

ALREWAS - The overload on these works continues to increase, but, due to the high rate of infiltration into the sewerage system, a reasonably satisfactory effluent is produced. In the adjacent village of Fradley the sewerage system is unsatisfactory, and proposals to deal with this are being included in the proposed scheme for enlarging the treatment works at Alrewas, pumping the sewage from the village of Fradley to the new works. It is hoped that the scheme will be started in 1971.

ARMITAGE AND LONGDON - The sewage treatment works situated at Armitage deals with the drainage from these parishes, the effluent from which is reasonable, and there continues to be an improvement in the standard of final effluent. A limited recirculation system for final effluent was installed only this year. Wedge Wire Clarifiers are to be fitted to three humus tanks during December and it is proposed to instal a more flexible recirculation system next year.

BRINDLEY HEATH - These works continue to produce a satisfactory final effluent complying with the Trent River Authority's standards.

BURNTWOOD - Modernisation is now complete and a final effluent complying with the Trent River Authority's standard is produced. The drying area for sludge treatment has proved inadequate, and it is proposed to have additional drying beds constructed next year.

CLIFTON CAMPVILLE - Continues to produce a satisfactory final effluent.

COLTON - Due to a small flow at present being received at these works, only part of the units constructed in the new sewage treatment works are in service. This works continues to produce a satisfactory final effluent.

CURBOROUGH AND ELMHURST - This works continues to discharge a satisfactory final effluent.

DRAYTON BASSETT - This works continues to produce a good quality effluent.

EDINGALE - This new works is now in operation, and taking sewage from new pumping stations in Edingale and Harlaston. The old Council House treatment plants have been demolished.

ELFORD - This works continues to produce a final effluent, conforming to the Trent River Authority's standards.

FAREWELL AND CHORLEY - The new pumping station at Chorley is now in operation, and the sewage from these villages is treated at Burntwood sewage works. The old council house treatment plant has been demolished.

FAZELEY - Sewage from this area is dealt with at Tamworth Sewage Treatment Works, the sewage discharging into the main trunk sewer in Watling Street, and passing under the canal into the Tamworth Borough. The two pumping stations serving this parish are both working satisfactorily.

FRADLEY - The plant dealing with the new council houses continues to operate satisfactorily, and produces a final effluent conforming to the Trent River Authority's standards. The sewerage system of the village in general is unsatisfactory, and it is proposed to deal with this within the scheme for Alrewas.

HAMSTALL RIDWARE - This new works is now completed, and will be in operation shortly.

HARLASTON - See Edingale.

HOPWAS - The treatment works now produce a very high standard of final effluent, conforming to the standard laid down by the Trent River Authority.

HINTS - The final effluent from these works is satisfactory, conforming to the Trent River Authority's standards.

KINGS BROMLEY - The effluent from the existing sewage tank continues to be very unsatisfactory. Contractors have begun work on the village sewerage scheme and, when it is complete, the sewage will be pumped to the Lichfield City works at Curborough for treatment.

MAVESYN RIDWARE - Due to the amount of development that has taken place recently in this village, the sewage works is seriously overloaded, with the result that it is not possible to produce a satisfactory effluent at all times. Council approval has been given to the installation of a Bio Disc unit to deal with the overload. This scheme will shortly be submitted to the Staffordshire County Council for planning approval.

SHENSTONE - The Wedge Wire clarifiers were installed early this year to replace the sand filters and the works continues to produce a high standard of effluent.



STONNALL - This works now produces a very satisfactory effluent.

LITTLE ASTON - The sewage treatment works is situated at Little Aston, and deals with the drainage from part of the Aldridge/Brownhills Urban District and the Borough of Sutton Coldfield. Due to the amount of development which has taken place recently in this area, the single stage heated digestion unit is overloaded. Excellent results are still being maintained from this works, the effluent being of a very high standard.

STREETHAY - The final effluent from this works is satisfactory, and conforms to the Trent River Authority's standards. Due to the closing of the Maltings, ample capacity has been made available for coping with limited development in this area.

SWINFEN AND PACKINGTON - The treatment works at Botany Bay, to deal with the housing estate, is working satisfactorily and is producing a reasonable standard of effluent, but one which does not conform to the Trent River Authority's standards. It is proposed to purchase an additional plot of land to instal a small pumping station and grass plots to give the final effluent tertiary treatment.

WALL - The old works has now been demolished and the sewage is pumped from a new pumping station to Burntwood treatment works.

WHITTINGTON - The final effluent from the new sewage treatment works remains of a very high standard, conforming to the standards required by the Trent River Authority.

WIGGINTON - Conditions in the portion of this parish which is sewered are quite good, the sewage being dealt with at the Tamworth sewage treatment works.

WEEFORD - There is no change in the sewerage conditions existing in this parish.





LICHFIELD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1969

To the Chairman and Members  
Lichfield Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my report on the administration and work carried out by the Public Health Inspectors for the year ended 31st December 1969.

It is regretted that, because of various circumstances, this Report has been prepared and published later in the year 1970 than in previous years.

In the circumstances I make no particular reference to any points in the Report but it will be seen that the work of the Department was generally maintained to a satisfactory standard.

I express my thanks to members and officers of the Council for their continued co-operation and assistance throughout the year.

G. LEEDER

Chief Public Health Inspector.

Rural Council House,  
LICHFIELD.

November, 1970.

## INSPECTIONS

The following table shows the number of visits and inspections made by public health inspectors to the various classes of premises etc:-

VISITS AND INSPECTIONS	NUMBER
Atmospheric Pollution	36
Civic Amenities Act	200
Drainage	309
Factories	45
Offices and Shops Act	150
Improvement and Conversion Grants	137
Slaughterhouses	481
Noise Nuisances	8
Offensive Trades	4
Petroleum-Spirit	337
Tents, Vans and Sheds	159
Theatres and Clubs	4
Refuse	42
Rodent Control and Pests	43
Water Supply	34
Food Hygiene Visits	741
Infectious Disease	37
Housing Visits and Revisits	638
Scrap Metals	7
Miscellaneous	162
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,574</b>

### Complaints and Notices

No. of complaints received ...	307
No. of nuisances detected as a result of investigation of complaints and routine duties ...	457
No. of informal notices served ...	501
No. of statutory notices served .	23
Nuisances abated as a result of formal and informal action ...	137

1st April 1969 - 31st March, 1970

(a) Refuse Collection

This service was maintained at a high level throughout the year and very few complaints were received. It is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to operate in such a large area without complaints and generally they were found to be due to periods of sickness in the labour force or to mechanical breakdowns in the vehicles. This Council has been fortunate for many years in having a labour force that is extremely hard working and competent in operation. The introduction of an incentive bonus scheme based on proper work study principles was under investigation during the year. If this is proceeded with it can only produce improved operation for the service as a whole and improve the working load of the employees on an equitable basis.

The problem of vehicle breakdowns creates a difficult situation at times and consideration must be given to the reasons. Modern refuse vehicles now provide the means to secure bigger and better pay loads but the technical advances in the manufacture of vehicles tend to make them more sophisticated in construction thereby increasing both the capital cost and the cost of maintenance. The average life of a refuse vehicle used to be seven to ten years but it is no longer economically viable to keep them going for all these years. In my view vehicle replacements should now be based on a four or five year cycle if one is to secure the fullest possible value from the increasing capital cost of these vehicles.

(b) Refuse Disposal

The refuse incineration plant was officially opened on 3rd September 1969, and was brought into immediate use. Regrettably however difficulties were experienced in securing the results that had been expected. The contractors carried out many minor modifications with little success in securing a constant temperature or satisfactory throughput. After several months in operation the plant was subsequently closed down, to enable the contractors to install a rotary screen which will extract from the refuse, before it reaches the ignition chamber, a high proportion of the fine dust which is present in the local refuse collected. This material is virtually innocuous containing very little organic matter and should present no difficulties in disposal. It is anticipated that this modification will enable the remaining refuse to be dealt with by the plant to the complete standards of performance which are laid down in the Contract.

In the meantime it has been necessary to proceed to dispose of all refuse from both authorities by normal tipping procedure.

The total cost of the Public Cleansing Service for the year ending 31st March 1970 was £90,260.



## CIVIC AMENITIES ACT, 1967

### (a) Disposal of Bulky Refuse

This service, whereby residents, upon notification to the Health Department, can arrange for removal and disposal of bulky items of a nature that cannot be collected in the normal household refuse service, has worked extremely well. During the year a total of 1056 visits involving some 1720 items was undertaken, nearly a 100% increase on the previous year's working. The following statistics give some indication of the use that is made of this service:-

Beds, mattresses, cots, chairs and seats .....	497
Washing machines, spin dryers, wringers and coppers	80
Prams, bicycles, mowers, rollers and wheelbarrows	160
Three-piece suites, wardrobes, tables and refrigerators .....	107
Radios, record players, pianos and televisions ....	56
Fires, radiators, boilers, sinks, baths and cisterns	155
Carpets, linoleum, dustbins and coal bunkers . ....	97
Doors, windows and sheds .....	25
Other items and general refuse including rubble, cookers, garden refuse, tiles, tins, wood, metal, boxes, paper, concrete, ladders etc. ....	543
<hr/>	
Total number items collected .....	1,720
<hr/>	
Total number of collections made .....	1,056
<hr/>	

There is still, however, a necessity to deal with indiscriminate dumping of rubbish on waste land, roadside verges and ditches in the Rural District. Full and detailed investigations are made in all such cases reported and I express my appreciation to the Police for their continued co-operation in assisting us in this problem.

During the year 12 cases were proceeded with in the Magistrate's Court, resulting in 10 persons being fined a total of £120 plus costs amounting to £57. 4. 0d.

### (b) Removal and Disposal of Abandoned Vehicles

During the year 33 vehicles were dealt with under the Removal and Disposal of Vehicles Regulations 1968. This aspect of the Civic Amenities Act involves a complicated formal procedure which is time consuming and bears little comparison to the results achieved.

# PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The Council's Rodent Officers made a total of 2155 visits during the year in connection with the eradication of rodents. This represents a small increase over the previous year, in fact a continuing trend, and the tables overleaf give a clear indication of the work carried out by these two employees.

The Contract scheme, continued to flourish and several new Contracts were accepted during the year. In my opinion the Contract Scheme provides an invaluable service, not only to the farmers and business operatives who support it but, in particular, to this Local Authority as it provides regular visits and surveillance to classes of premises which can all too often be vectors in the spread of infestations if they remain unchecked.

## Summary of all Rodent Disinfestation Works Carried Out by the Department During 1969

Class of Premises	Domestic		Business		Contracts	Agri-cultural	Local Authorities
	Rats	Mice	Rats	Mice	Rats & Mice	Rats	Rats
No. of Infestations Dealt with	163	26	40	10	Regular Treatments	11	21
No. of Visits made	826	124	186	28	784	72	135
No. of Points Laid	1990	254	561	93	5031	1260	1272
Weight Poison Used (lbs.)	429	27	150	7½	934	234	198
Estimated Kill	2024	273	760	147	4953	1139	700
No. of Bodies Found	223	67	60	16	118	118	170

Total number of infestations ... 271 \* (excluding contract work)  
 Total number of visits made ... 2155  
 Total number of points laid ... 10461  
 Total weight of poison used ... 17 cwt. 2 qts. 20 lbs.  
 Total estimated kill ... 9996  
 Total number of bodies found ... 1203

In addition to the above, 43 visits were made by Public Health Inspectors to all classes of premises, in an examination and advisory capacity.



Once again the resources of the Department have been extended in the service of the ratepayer in connection with miscellaneous complaints, not, of course, covered by the provisions of the Act. During the year wasps nests have been destroyed, premises disinfested of beetles, ants etc., dead dogs removed and disposed of, moles have been cleared at premises and many drain tests were carried out.

### FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

As a result of a calculated transfer of the emphasis of departmental duties only a restricted number of visits was made to factories during the year. This was practicable as a result of the complete and comprehensive survey of premises carried out during the preceeding year and is reflected in the following tables by the extremely low number of contraventions noted:-

PREMISES	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	Nil	-	-	-
Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	136	40	2	-
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	9	5	0	-
TOTAL	145	45	2	-

The table set out overleaf shows the defects found, and action taken as a result of the inspection carried out:-



	Number of Cases in which Defects were Found				Number of Cases in which Prosecutions were Instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	-		-		-
Overcrowding	-		-		-
Unreasonable temperatures	-		-		-
Inadequate ventilation	-		-		-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-		-		-
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient			-	Nil	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	1	Nil	1	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	3	1	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	5	2	-	1	-

Outworkers 9

### THE OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

#### (a) Inspection

Eighty three premises received a general inspection during the year. The remaining sixty seven visits comprised of accident investigations and re-visits in order to ascertain if contraventions had been remedied.

General inspections are carried out upon receipt of new registration applications and premises previously registered have been inspected on a bi-annual basis. During the latter part of the year, however, a complete and thorough survey of the district was commenced and this is expected to be completed during the first half of 1970.

When the survey has been completed, it is envisaged that all registered premises will receive general inspections at least on an annual basis.

(b) Registration

A total of twenty six applications for registration were received during the year. A large proportion of these were from premises which were revealed by the survey not to have registered when, in fact, registration should have been effected a considerable time previously. As in previous years, it was noted that the premises which had neglected to register were the small businesses, notably small shopkeepers employing perhaps only one or two assistants. The larger firms seem to be well aware of their obligations in this respect.

(c) Operation of the General Provisions of the Act

During the year, informal notices were served on 34 premises for a total of 72 contraventions of the Act.

The most numerous contravention of the Act appeared to be the failure on the part of the employer to provide or display an abstract of the Act. This accounted for 33 of the total 72 contraventions. Failure to provide adequate first aid facilities was the next numerous, with a total of 9 contraventions. It was found that most employers provided some sort of first aid equipment, but few completely complied with the First Aid Order made under the Act. Section 6 provided 8 contraventions, but of these only two were for premises where the heating facilities were inadequate, the remainder were concerning the failure to provide and display a suitable thermometer.

The remaining contraventions were as follows:-

Section 4 - Cleanliness .....	6
Section 9 - Sanitary Conveniences .	5
Section 16 - Floors, Passages and stairs .....	5
Section 10 - Washing Facilities ...	4
Section 7 - Ventilation .....	1
Section 14 - Seating Facilities ...	1

The contravention relating to Section 14 concerned a supermarket where no seating facilities were provided for the assistant engaged in the task of "checking out" the purchases.

(d) Accidents

During the year only three accidents were notified in accordance with Section 48 of the Act. None of the accidents resulted in serious injury. The first occurred when an office cleaner slipped from a desk whilst cleaning woodwork which could not be reached from the floor. Suitable steps were available at the time and the management were requested to instruct the employees to use them as necessary.



The second accident occurred when an employee fell from an aluminium step ladder whilst taking down small packages from a shelf. The step ladder was found to be in a sound condition and no precautions could have been taken by the employer in order to prevent an accident of this nature, which was due to human error.

The last accident occurred at a television transmitting station when heavy transmitting equipment was being man-handled onto a lorry. An employee's hand was trapped by the equipment, resulting in a fractured finger and bruising. The employer was advised, in writing, to ensure that on subsequent occasions, suitable loading apparatus is used for this purpose.

Table A  
Registrations and General Inspections

<u>Class of Premises</u>	<u>Newly Registered Premises During Year</u>	<u>Total Registered Premises</u>	<u>No. of Premises Visited once or More in Year</u>
Offices	6	31	11
Retail Shops	12	132	50
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	4	14	8
Catering Establishments, Canteens	4	28	13
Fuel Storage Depots	Nil	1	1
Totals	26	206	83

No. of visits of all kinds to Registered Premises 150

Table B  
Analysis by Workplace of Persons Employed in Registered Premises at End of Year

<u>Class of Workplace</u>	<u>No. of Persons Employed</u>
Offices	360
Retail Shops	462
Wholesale Departments, Warehouses	188
Catering Establishments open to the Public	231
Canteens	13
Fuel Storage Depots	6
Total	1,260

Total Males

491

Total Females

769



## Prosecutions

No legal proceedings were instituted during the year. It has been found that informal action is at present sufficient in order to obtain the co-operation of the employers in securing compliance with the provisions of the Act

## HOUSING

The Public Health Inspectors made a total of 626 visits and revisits in connection with housing complaints and procedure. The majority of these visits were relating to action under the Housing Act 1957, in the slum clearance programme. The remainder were concerning defects of repair, investigation of complaints and revisits to ensure completion of remedial works of repair.

### (a) Procedure Under Housing Act 1957

A total of 36 houses were dealt with in the year by means of Official Undertakings under Section 16(4) of the Act. No properties were made subject to Demolition Orders during the year. Details of Clearance Area action has been included in the report of the Medical Officer of Health.

### (b) Housing Repair

44 Notices were served on the owners of 45 houses in accordance with the provisions of the Housing & Public Health Acts in respect of housing defects. Of those served a total of 14 were complied with during the year and a further 15, outstanding from the previous year were complied with.

There were no statutory notices served during the year in respect of housing defects.

### (c) Rent Act, 1957

There were no applications for Certificates of Disrepair received during the year and, with the advent of Qualification Certificate legislation, the importance of this part of the Act continues to decline.

## IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

One hundred and twenty nine visits were undertaken by the Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector and Deputy Engineer & Surveyor for the purpose of advising intending applicants for improvement grants. Of the 60 applications received 47 were in respect of standard grants and 13 for discretionary grants. All applications were subsequently approved. One of the most significant innovations in the long history of the improvement grant scheme came into effect during the year with the passing of the Housing Act, 1969. This provided for an almost unprecedented increase in the amount of grant aid with maximums being generally increased to £1,000 in relation to 'discretionary' grants and £450 in relation to

'standard' grants (£200 maximum for internal conversion). In so far as the 'discretionary' scheme is concerned one of the most important aspects is related to the introduction of grant aid for certain repair works. This is certainly proving to be a vital factor in the repair and modernisation of properties that would have been classified formerly as "not repairable at reasonable expense." The impact of this type of grant is only now being felt and is reflected in the increasing number of applications which are now falling in this particular category.

If the Improvement Grant Scheme is taken in conjunction with the Qualification Certificate procedure this can be of extreme benefit also in relation to tenanted properties which have not formerly reaped the benefit of the scheme's availability.

#### STANDARD GRANTS

	Owner-Occupied		Tenanted	
	5 Point	3 Point	5 Point	3 Point
1. Applications Received	33	-	14	-
Applications Approved	33	-	14	-
Applications Refused	-	-	-	-
2. No. of dwellings improved	38	-	14	-

3. Amount Paid in grants during 1969:- £4,374. 0. 0d.

4. Average grant per dwelling :- £ 199. 0. 0d.

5. Number of amenities provided :-

(a) Fixed bath or shower :	...	...	...	...	14
(b) Wash-hand basin :	...	...	...	...	16
(c) Hot water supply :	...	...	...	...	16
(d) Water closet :	...	...	...	...	15
(e) Food Storage :	...	...	...	...	13

#### DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

	Owner-Occupied	Tenanted
1. Applications received	2	1
2. Applications granted	2	1
3. Applications refused	-	-
4. No. of dwellings improved	1	1

5. Amount paid in grants during 1969 :- ... £683. 0. 0d.

6. Average grant per dwelling :- ... £341. 0. 0d.



## CARAVAN SITES & CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

No new applications were received for caravan sites during the year and there remained a total of 28 sites. These provided spaces for 507 caravans, and 12 chalets. Of the 28 sites, 24 are licensed for residential purposes with the remaining four being either holiday or night halts.

During the year a complete survey of all caravan sites within the Rural District was undertaken. This was necessitated by the fact that owing to staff shortages, it had not been possible previously to ensure regular visits to such sites and as a regrettable result, conditions at many of them had deteriorated. In order to achieve comprehensive improvements, it was considered necessary to strengthen many of the existing site licensing conditions. As a result a standardised list of licensing conditions was compiled which became applicable to each site. In many cases special and additional licensing conditions were added.

A total of 159 visits were made by inspectors in connection with caravans, although some of these were to tinkers and travellers who again regularly established themselves on roadside verges and waste land, causing their usual nuisance and disruption.

## THEATRES AND CINEMAS

During the year, four applications were received for the issue of 'occasional' licences for the use of premises for the production of stage plays. In each instance the premises were inspected by the County Fire Prevention Officer and his recommendations incorporated in the Licensing Conditions. The reduction in the number of occasional licences issued was prior to the time period during which delegated authority was received from the Staffordshire County Council following the commencement of the Theatres Act 1968. During this time period, all applications were forwarded to the County Council for attention.

One licence was granted for the continued use, in accordance with the Cinematograph Acts 1909 and 1952, of the only cinema operating within the district, together with the consent for its use for children.

In respect of the administration of the above matters, I would like to express my appreciation to the County Fire Authority for their continued advice and assistance.



## SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT, 1964

This Act requires the three yearly registration by the local authority of persons carrying on the business of scrap metal dealer within their area. Certain of the legislation related to records of scrap metal dealings are administered by the Police Authority.

During the year, no existing licences were renewed upon expiration and 4 were deleted from the register as a result of failure to make renewal application. Three new certificates of Registration were issued and at the end of the year a total of 15 registrations were in force.

Few complaints were received by the department in connection with the running of scrap yards, resulting in only 7 visits being made to such premises during the year.

## PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS, 1928 and 1936

There were 118 licences for the storage of petroleum spirit issued during the year.

Once again a considerable amount of time was expended by the Department in the routine inspection of petroleum storage installations and I feel that this effort, when taken into account with the amount of educational and precautionary information circulated to licensees, has without doubt helped in the reduction in the number of reported incidents related to the storage and handling of petroleum spirit when compared with previous years.

Following the incident, during the latter part of 1968, concerning the explosion and fire at a service station due to the carelessness of a mechanic in using a wander lead lamp not of the flame proof or intrinsically safe type as recommended, every service and repair station within the Rural District was circulated with appropriate information not only related to the use of equipment but, in addition, to the precautionary measures to be instituted relative to the handling and use of petroleum spirit during vehicle servicing procedures.

I must again express my concern at the heating methods used at some garages and workshops in the use of waste oil burners of the "blower" type. These heaters provide a cheap but dangerous source of heat and once again it was necessary to circulate warning information as a result of their increasing use.

Two prosecutions were taken during the year. The first followed the fire at the Service Station (outlined above), when the licensee was fined £15 with £15. 17. 6d. for a contravention of the Petroleum Spirit (Motor Vehicles) Regulations 1929, and the second case was instituted in respect of failure to renew a petroleum storage licence with the defendant being fined £25. with £7. 7. 0d. costs.

Once again I would like to express my appreciation to Mr. D. Blacktop, Chief Fire Officer, and his Officers of the Staffordshire County Fire Brigade, for their advice and assistance during the year.

#### WATER SUPPLY

During the year five investigations have been made into reports of unsatisfactory water supply, all of which, after analysis, proved to be acceptable for domestic use.

Further samples of water from the domestic mains supply taken by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company and a series of samples from premises served by boreholes taken by the Staffordshire County Council Health Department all proved to be satisfactory.

During the year routine monthly sampling was undertaken of the water supply at Burntwood Swimming Baths. Only one sample proved to be unsatisfactory and, although investigations failed to reveal the precise cause of this, subsequent samples were all found to be satisfactory. Over the twelve month period it was established that high standards were being maintained.

#### SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

##### (a) Meat Inspection

The number of animals slaughtered during the year in the District, at the 8 licensed slaughterhouses was 74,151. This represents an increase of over 4,000 animals over the previous year. This increase can be accounted for by an increase of approximately 2,000 pigs and an additional 1,000 in the number of bovine animals, and a similar amount in relation to the numbers of sheep and lambs, slaughtered.

As in previous years much of the inspection work is undertaken outside normal working hours, although it is true to reflect that the burden which has been imposed upon the public health inspectors for several years, has been lightened by the appointment of an authorised meat inspector.

Once again, no bovine animals were condemned as a result of generalised tuberculosis. In fact, no localised infection was detected, although the number of pigs affected by avian tuberculosis totalled 49. Four cases of localised cysticercus bovis were detected, compared with six on the previous year. These carcasses were, of course, subjected to refrigeration before release.



The total amount of meat and offal condemned as being unfit for human consumption was 48 tons 15 cwt 1 qtr. 21 lbs. This is a significant increase of nearly 20 tons when compared with the amount condemned during the previous year. This increase can be accounted for entirely by the condemnation of sheep carcasses and offal slaughtered at an abattoir within the district used for the Mohammedan trade. It would appear that the quality of the animals slaughtered in this manner is deteriorating year by year.

The following statistics give details of the meat inspection service during the year:--

	CATTLE	CALVES	PIGS	SHEEP AND LAMBS	GOATS
Carcases inspected	7,733	964	14,075	51,363	16
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>					
Whole Carcase condemned	34	20	17	135	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1,872	34	1105	13,201	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	24.67%	5.71%	7.97%	24.97%	5.25%
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>					
Whole Carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	49	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease	-	-	0.35%	-	-
<u>Cystercosis</u>					
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	4	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	4	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-



# DISEASED MEAT AND OFFALS

<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis</u>				
	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Cwt</u>	<u>Qrs</u>	<u>Lbs</u>
CATTLE : Carcase meat	10	5	1	5
Offal	11	2	2	13
CALVES : Carcase meat	-	12	2	0
Offal	-	1	0	21
PIGS : Carcase meat	1	7	3	18
Offal	1	12	2	18
SHEEP : Carcase meat	2	6	0	4
Offal	21	1	0	3
	48	9	0	16
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>				
PIGS : Carcase meat	-	6	1	5
Total weight of meat and offal condemned	48	15	1	21

(b) Other Foods

Condemnation certificates have also been issued in respect of the following foodstuffs:-

	Tons	Cwt	Qrts	Lbs	ozs
85 Tins fruit	-	-	2	25	12
17 Tins vegetables	-	-	-	11	9
156 Tins meat	-	6	2	16	4
107 Tins fruit juices	-	-	1	11	2
3 Tins rice puddings	-	-	-	6	1
1 Tin cream	-	-	-	-	6
508 Packets vegetables	-	3	0	2	8
133 Packets meat	-	-	2	4	0
162 Packets meat products	-	-	3	1	7
460 Packets fish	-	2	2	7	0
23 Packets pastry	-	-	-	7	14
6 Packets cheeseburgers	-	-	-	1	8
44 Packets cakes	-	-	1	5	0
329 Packets assorted ice cream products	-	-	3	5	4
Bacon	2	5	2	24	0
Pork	-	1	0	2	0
Beef	-	-	-	4	0
15 Chickens	-	-	1	14	12
20 Turkeys	-	2	-	9	0
33 Portions chickens	-	-	-	13	5
39 Fish cakes	-	-	1	1	12
41 Pies	-	-	-	20	10
	3	5	2	27	2

The total weight of other foodstuffs condemned in 1968 was 1 ton 9 cwts 3 qts 13 lbs 4 ozs. In addition to the above, 2 cwts of food were condemned following a fire in a general provisions store.

(c) The Slaughterhouse (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958

Quarterly inspections of each of the private slaughterhouses in the District, were carried out in conjunction with the Divisional Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Apart from minor items, no adverse criticism resulted from these inspections and I am informed that standards in the Rural District compare very favourably with those in the remainder of the County.

(d) The Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

Once again a considerable amount of time was spent in the routine inspection of all food premises within the Rural District. In fact, food hygiene duties during the year necessitated over 700 inspections being carried out. In previous reports I have always stressed the importance of food hygiene and the advancement of standards and I have previously advocated that the strengthening of the existing legislation is long overdue. Unfortunately, there appears to be little likelihood of any basic amendments being made to the legislation in the foreseeable future.

Once again, difficulties have been experienced in relation to newly established food businesses in premises which had not been specifically designed for such purpose. This arises as a result of shop units being designed on a uniform basis, irrespective of the trading purposes which they will be eventually used for. Developers do not appear to be prepared to accept that it does not follow that plans which are approved under the Town & Country Planning Act and Building Bylaws, do not necessarily comply with the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations. A considerable degree of co-operation exists with the Local Planning Officer but in certain instances developers have refused to make amendment to their deposited plans on the grounds that at such an early stage they are not always certain of the exact trading use to which a particular unit will be allocated. This attitude is taken irrespective of the fact that in a block of six shop units it could be reasonably expected that at least one, possibly two, would, in fact, be eventually let as a food business. In this context I feel that it is highly desirable that the existing legislation should be strengthened in order to prevent anomalies of this nature.

Full details of the inspections are appended below and the following tables give comprehensive detail of the general food hygiene work carried out:-

Total number of premises inspected	...	...	157
Total number of inspections and reinspections			741
Total number of notices served	...	...	161



	No. of Contra- ventions found	Contraventions complied with
1. Sink provided for washing food and equipment		
(a) Inadequate quantity of hot water	9	11
(b) No sink provided	10	9
(c) Sink defective	14	10
(d) In room communicating with water closet	4	2
2. <u>Wash-Hand Basins</u>		
(a) Inadequate quantity of hot water	15	14
(b) No wash-hand basin provided	6	9
(c) Defective	10	9
(d) No soap, towels, nailbrushes provided	60	64
3. <u>Foodrooms</u>		
(a) Structure in state of disrepair etc.	80	
(b) In need of redecoration	36	20
(c) Communicates directly with sanitary convenience	2	4
(d) Furnishings utensils and equipment dirty or defective	61	52
(e) Food exposed to risk of contamination	22	26
(f) Inadequate lighting and ventilation	6	4
(g) No proper storage for outdoor clothing etc.	2	2
(h) Accumulations of refuse and miscellaneous rubbish	26	20
(i) Inadequate facilities for preparation and storage of food	12	9
4. <u>Sanitary Accommodation</u>		
(a) Inadequate, defective, dirty or otherwise unsatisfactory	86	74
(b) No handwashing notices displayed	29	26
5. Evidence of smoking	15	10

CONTRAVENTION	No. of Contra-ventions found	Contraventions complied with
6. Unhygienic practices discovered	9	9
7. Drainage defective	4	2
8. No first aid equipment provided	15	16
9. Inadequate or unsatisfactory refuse storage	10	9
10. Premises so unsatisfactory as to warrant complete closure	1	1
* TOTAL NO. OF CONTRAVENTIONS	544	
* TOTAL NO. OF CONTRAVENTIONS COMPLIED WITH (TO DATE)		412

\* These totals include contraventions complied with during the year in respect of notices served in 1968.

During the year legal proceedings were successfully instituted in respect of contraventions at two food premises as follows:-

Type of Food Premise	Contraventions	Convictions	Fines and Costs
Transport Cafe	17	17	£177. 0. 0d.
General Provisions Shop	6	2	£ 69. 8. 0d.
TOTALS	23	19	£246. 8. 0d.

The above tables do not include proceedings taken against the Manager and Manageress of the Transport Cafe. The Manager was fined £5 for failing to take all reasonable steps to secure the compliance of the Regulations of food handlers under his control and the case against the Manageress, for smoking a cigarette in food premises, was dismissed.

(e) Food and Drugs Act, 1955

There were 12 complaints of unsound food or foreign matter and mould in food investigated during the year as follows:-



Food	Nature of Complaint	Action Taken	Costs & Fines
Loaf of Bread	Zinc contamination	Legal proceedings	£25 fine with £8. 8. 0d. costs
Beef Pie	Mould	Legal Proceedings	Two fines of £10 with £27. 6. 0d. costs
Sausage Rolls	Mould		
Meat Pie	Mould	Legal Proceedings	£10 fine with £11. 8. 0d. .costs
Swiss Roll	Insect larva in cream	Warning to manufacturers	
Bottle of Milk	Fly inside bottle	Strong warning to Dairy.	
Iced Lollipop	Contamination with Calcium Chloride	Warning to Manufacturers.	
Sausage	Contained small piece of glass	Strong warning to Manufacturer	
Baby Food	Spider	Complaint not definitely substantiated by laboratory. Manufacturers advised of nature of complaint.	
Cheese Spread	Mould	Strong warning issued to Manufacturers.	
Pork Chop	Unsaleable Condition	Strong warning issued to retailer	
Bottle of Milk	Contained quantity of cement	Strong warning issued to Dairy	
Sponge Cake	Contained maggot	Investigation of Manufacturer and Retailer. Unable to substantiate circumstances	

(f) The Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls & Delivery Vehicles)  
Regulations, 1966

The regular inspection of food vehicles plying the District continued during the year. In general, I am pleased to report that, following the amount of attention given to this duty in the two previous years, some improvement was noted in general standards.

Legal proceedings were instituted against three firms during the course of the year in respect of adverse conditions found on their vehicles and these were successful in each case. Fines totalling £155 with costs of £77. 18. 0d. were imposed by the Magistrates in respect of these cases. In addition to this, one of the employees was fined £10 for not wearing suitable protective clothing.

It should be placed on record that the first open market was opened at Burntwood during the course of the year. Whilst there is a certain lack of general amenities, agreement was reached with the proprietors of the market that, other than greengrocery, no stall would be let to persons engaged in the sale of unwrapped food commodities. In the circumstances, it can be stated that conditions generally were found to be satisfactory.

(g) The Slaughter of Poultry Act 1967

Regular visits are now made each week to the only poultry packing station operating on a commercial basis within this District.

Whilst a 100% inspection service is impractical the firm concerned have proved to be most co-operative and inspection is achieved on a "spotter" basis.

An analysis of the results is shown in the following tables:-

	Turkeys	Chickens	Hens	Ducks
No. of birds slaughtered (33,368)	-	9,103	14,202	10,053
No. of birds condemned	-	104	134	18
% Condemed	-	1.14%	0.94%	0.18%

Total No. of birds condemned 256 (0.76%)

Details of Condemnations and Weights (lbs).

Class	Mareks	Ascites	Tranma	Poorness	Cropbound	Aspergi- llosis
Chickens	112	6	8	126	27	3
Hens	-	13	-	176	13	-
Ducks	-	4	-	21	-	2½
Total Weight (lbs)	112	23	8	323	40	5½



Total Weight Condemned 4 cwts 2 qrs 7 $\frac{1}{2}$  lbs.

The legislation relating to the slaughter of poultry will be much strengthened when the Act comes into effect on the 1st January 1970. This will provide for the mode of slaughter of turkeys and domestic fowl, the registration of commercial premises and will further provide for Regulations to be made for securing humane conditions of slaughter.







